

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendments, claims 1-24 have been canceled and claims 25-43 are added. Claims 25-43 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. Claims 25-33 are the same as previously pending claims 3, 4, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, respectively with minor modification as suggested by the Examiner. Please see the "Examiner Interview" section below. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. Support for new claim 34 can be found at page 2, lines 7-22. Support for new claims 35-41 can be found in claim 30. Support for new claim 42 in claim 25. Support for new claim 43 in claim 29. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

In several conversations with the Examiner held on April 5, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if claim 3 was amended so that "one or more amino acids are substituted, deleted, or inserted" was amended to recite "one amino acid is substituted, deleted, or inserted" and if claims 22 to 24 were made dependent from claim 3. The claims have been amended so that these changes have been made but the claims have been renumbered as claims 25 et seq. Moreover, the Examiner

indicated that she would consider claims directed to product by process claims and would likely look favorably upon claims that indicated their strain source as well as some structural property. Thus, Applicants have added claims directed to product by process claims that indicate their strain source as well as structural properties (i.e., various SEQ ID Nos).

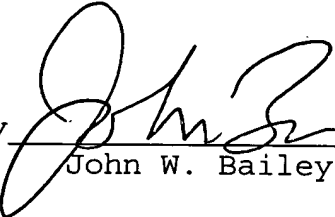
Thus, with the above remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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